

Message Text

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43

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 INT-05 COME-00

TRSE-00 SP-02 AID-05 NSC-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04

OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 L-03 H-02 XMB-02 OPIC-03 GSA-01 /097 W

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R 31155Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2344

INFO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: EIND, EMIN, NL, US, NS

SUBJ: BILLITON BAUXITE TALKS RECESS AMICABLY

REF : PARAMARIBO 0724

1. TALKS BETWEEN SHELL-OWNED BILLITON BAUXITE COMPANY AND THE
GOS HAVE RECESSED UNTIL UNFIXED DATE IN JANUARY 1976. NO MAJOR
DECISIONS TAKEN THUS FAR.

2. ACCORDING TO RO POCORNI, DIRECTOR MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT
AND CHAIRMAN GOS BAUXITE COMMITTEE, TALKS DID NOT GO MUCH BEYOND
PRELIMINARY EXCHANGE OF VIEWS BEFORE IT WAS DECIDED TO RECESS
FOR THE HOLIDAYS. NO CONCLUSIONS WERE DRAWN OR DECISIONS TAKEN
EITHER ON BILLITON'S URGENT REQUEST FOR BAUXITE LEVY RELIEF
OR ON RELATED QUESTION OF BILLITON'S FUTURE ROLE IN SURINAM.
TALKS RECESSED ON AMICABLE NOTE, POCORNI SAID, AND WILL RECON-
VENE IN JANUARY, PROBABLY AFTER COMPLETION SURALCO/GOS NEGOTIATIONS.

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3. POCORNI ALSO MADE POINT TO EMBASSY OFFICER THAT THE GOS EXPECTS A SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, BEGINNING SECOND HALF 1976 IN US AND EARLY 1977 IN WESTERN EUROPE AND REACHING "BOOM" STAGE IN AUTO AND ALUMINUM INDUSTRIES BY 1978/1979. THIS MEANS, HE SAID, THAT BAUXITE COMPANIES SHOULD BE IN AN INCREASINGLY FAVORABLE POSITION TO ACCEPT THE GOS' DEFINITION OF A FAIR GOVERNMENT TAKE AND TO HELP IMPLEMENT THE GOS' AMBITIOUS DEVELOPMENT PLANS CENTERING AROUND THE UNTAPPED BAUXITE DEPOSITS OF WESTERN SURINAM. HE HOPED THE COMPANIES WOULD SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITIES BEING OFFERED THEM. AS FAR AS FINANCIAL QUESTIONS WERE CONCERNED, POCORNI WAS SATISFIED THAT COMPANIES HAD BEEN FORTHCOMING IN PAST AND WOULD BE REASONABLE DURING CURRENT ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS. HE WAS DISAPPOINTED, HOWEVER, BY SURALCO'S MARKED LACK OF ENTHUSIASM FOR ROLE IN WESTERN SURINAM DEVELOPMENT. STILL, HE HOPED COMPANY WOULD STUDY SURINAM'S NEW INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND KEEP OPEN MIND ABOUT FUTURE SURALCO PARTICIPATION. AS ITS PART OF COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP, POCORNI SAID THE GOS IS PREPARED TO SHOW UNDERSTANDING OF THE COMPANIES' NEEDS AND TO WORK WITH AND THROUGH THEM TO ACHIEVE ITS DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES. IN THIS CONNECTION, POCORNI REITERATED THAT THE GOS HAS NO PLANS TO NATIONALIZE THE BAUXITE COMPANIES AND WISHES ABOVE ALL TO CONTINUE AS "MODEL" THIRD WORLD COUNTRY WHERE RIGHTS OF PRIVATE SECTOR ARE FULLY RESPECTED.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH PROBLEMS REMAIN, GOODWILL THUS FAR EXHIBITED BY BOTH SIDES ARGUES WELL FOR JANUARY TALKS.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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